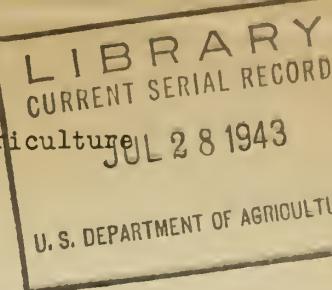


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Food Information Series
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Subject: Background statement and news releases on copper wire distribution program.

Distribution: Food Information Calendar list.

Suggested use: Background information and answering questions.
 Local release is for use by War Board chairmen to fit local conditions.

Copper is one of the critical war metals. We use vast quantities to produce weapons of war, and only restricted amounts are available for essential civilian uses. Consequently, copper, like other scarce materials, has been under distribution control for some time.

Methods employed on the distribution of copper have changed since July 1, when the Controlled Materials Plan of the War Production Board became fully effective. This plan is now used to control all distribution--for military and civilian uses--of copper, steel and aluminum.

Formerly, copper wire for farmstead wiring was distributed under separate WPB orders. Eligibility for power line extensions has been, and still is established under WPB order U-1-c, under which farmers must have at least 5 animal units to be eligible for a power line extension. (Animal unit standards are explained in War Board memorandum No. 291, Supplies 32. When the farmer wanted to apply for copper wire for new installations of farmstead wiring, he made his application to the County War Board under the terms of WPB preference rating order P-144. If the farmer qualified for copper wire according to the terms of order U-1-c, the War Board certified his eligibility and he was assigned a priority rating of AA-3 and could use the rating to purchase wire from a local dealer. To obtain wire for an extension on farms already served by electricity, the farmer was required to file application form PD-1a, which had to be approved by the War Production Board.

Under the Controlled Materials Plan, each claimant agency, of which the Department of Agriculture is one, is allotted specified amounts of critical materials for use during the three months beginning July 1. The copper wire for farmstead wiring comes out of that allotment.

Copper wire allocations are made on a quarterly basis. An allotment number is assigned to the wire approved for individual farmers by the County War Boards. This number is used instead of the preference rating formerly employed.

The procedure outlined in War Board Memorandum No. 390, Construction 24, and USDA press release No. 101-44, applies to copper wire farmers seek for both new and old extensions. Briefly, the farmer will apply to his County War Board for an allotment of wire, and if he meets the standards for essential permitted uses, the War Board will issue him a Copper Wire Allotment Certificate. The farmer will then present this certificate to his local dealer for the purchase of the wire. If the certificate is not surrendered to the dealer within 10 days after it is issued, it will become void. Each certificate will bear a number which applies to the copper allotted for farmstead wiring under the Controlled Materials Plan.

Local Release for Use by War Board Chairman.

Procedure through which farmers of _____ County may apply for copper wire for farmstead wiring is explained by _____, chairman of the _____ County USDA War Board, which has been given the responsibility of handling a distribution program on this farm supply item locally.

_____ said that both new and old users of electricity may make application to the County War Board for an allotment of wire, and if they meet standards for essential permitted uses, the Board will issue them a Copper Wire Allotment Certificate provided the county quota is not exceeded. The applicants will then present this certificate to a local dealer for purchase of the wire. The certificate must be used within 10 days after it is issued or it will become void. The certificates will be used by the local dealer to obtain supplies or to replace his inventories of copper wire.

_____ emphasized that approval on applications for copper wire will be given only for essential needs which will add to the food production program or save labor on the farm. The number of livestock and poultry on the farm will determine how much wire can be allotted for a farm. The maximum amount of wire which can be allotted will be the minimum that will take care of essential needs for the duration of the war.

_____ said that while allotments of wire will be released for essential food production and labor saving purposes, it cannot be made available for dwellings. Also, new farm users of electricity must be able to qualify for power line extensions before they will be eligible for copper wire under the new distribution program. To qualify for a power line extension, a farm is required to have a specified number of animal units and be within a reasonable distance from a power line. Old users of electricity who wish to extend electrical service on their farms are required to meet the same standards.

Farmers will not need to apply for certain small purchases of wiring materials under this procedure. WPB priorities regulation No. 19 provides that simply by certifying to his local dealer that he is a farmer and needs the equipment for production purposes this year, a farmer may purchase up to 75 feet of insulated copper wire (except for household use), up to 75 feet of certain kinds of cable, and some wiring fittings. In new farm construction which requires approval of the War Production Board under Conservation Order L-41, wiring needs should be included in the application for approval of such construction, instead of through the new distribution system announced today.

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OFFICE OF WAR INFORMATION
Department of Agriculture

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For Immediate Release
Tuesday July 13, 1943

WFA Sets Procedure for Distribution of Copper Wire

The War Food Administration today announced procedure by which farmers may apply for copper wire for farmstead wiring, in line with the WFA responsibility for the distribution of this farm supply item. County USDA War Boards will carry out the distribution program locally.

The procedure announced today replaces former distribution methods, by which farmers applied for preference ratings for copper wire, and provides that both old and new users of electricity obtain copper wire in the same manner. The new distribution system is in line with the Controlled Materials Plan of the War Production Board governing the distribution of critical materials, of which copper is one.

Under the Controlled Materials Plan, the Department of Agriculture, as a claimant agency for critical materials, has been allotted a stated amount of copper to be used for all agricultural purposes during the 3 months that began July 1. Copper wire for agricultural uses comes from agriculture's allotment of copper, and State and County quotas of the wire are established on a quarterly basis. States quotas for the third quarter of this year, beginning July 1, have been sent to State War Boards, who will determine county quotas.

The farmer may apply to his County War Board for an allotment of wire. If the proposed use meets the standards for essential permitted uses, the Board will issue him a Copper Wire Allotment Certificate. The applicant then presents this certificate to a local supplier for the purchase of wire. If the certificate is not surrendered to a supplier within 10 days after the issuance date, it becomes

void. The supplier will use the certificates to obtain supplies or replace his stocks of copper wire.

WFA officials said that approval would be given only for essential needs which will add to the food production program or save labor on the farm. The maximum amount of copper wire which can be allotted to new users of electricity, after a power line extension has been approved, will be 75 pounds for any one farm. The number of livestock and poultry on the farm will determine the maximum amount of wire which can be obtained. Where an extension of farmstead wiring is requested on a farm already served by electricity, the maximum allotment will be 50 pounds of wire.

While allotments of wire will be released for essential food production and labor saving purposes, copper wire cannot be made available for farm dwellings. Also, new users of electricity must be able to qualify for power line extensions before they will be eligible for copper wire under the new distribution program. To qualify for a power line extension, a farm is required to have a specified number of animal units and be within a reasonable distance from a power line. Old users of electricity who wish to extend electrical service on their farms, are required to meet the same standards.

Farmers will not need to apply under this procedure for certain small purchases of wiring materials. Under WPB priorities regulation No. 19, a farmer, simply by certifying to his local dealer that he is a farmer and needs the equipment for production purposes this year, may purchase up to 75 feet of insulated copper wire (except for household use), up to 75 feet of certain kinds of cable, and some wiring fittings. In a new farm construction which requires the approval of the War Production Board under Conservation Order L-111, wiring needs should be included in the application for approval of such construction, instead of through the new distribution system announced today.